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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/528,496

12/22/2005

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7590

05/16/2006

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EXAMINER

AUDET, MAURY A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1654

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a compound that inhibits complement activation, comprising a 13-residue open peptide sequence, with 4 various loci throughout open to various amino acid residues; the sequence equating to at least 15 or more distinct peptide sequences.

II. Claim 10, drawn to a compound that inhibits complement activation, comprising a non-peptide or partial peptide mimetic of a 13-residue open peptide sequence, with 4 various loci throughout open to various amino acid residues; the sequence equating to at least 15 or more distinct peptide sequences.

III. Claims 11-14, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule capable of encoding one or more peptides that inhibit complement activation, wherein the peptide comprises a 13-residue open peptide sequence, with 4 various loci throughout open to various amino acid residues; the sequence equating to at least 15 or more distinct peptide sequences.

IV. Claim 15, drawn to an expression vector comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule capable of encoding one or more peptides that inhibit complement activation, wherein the peptide comprises a 13-residue open peptide sequence, with 4 various loci throughout open to various amino acid residues; the sequence equating to at least 15 or more distinct peptide

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sequences.

V. Claims 16-17, drawn to a cell comprising an expression vector comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule capable of encoding one or more peptides that inhibit complement activation, wherein the peptide comprises a 13-residue open peptide sequence, with 4 various loci throughout open to various amino acid residues; the sequence equating to at least 15 or more distinct peptide sequences.

Lack of Unity

An international and a national stage application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept ("requirement of unity of invention"). Where a group of inventions is claimed in an application, the requirement of unity of invention shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. An international or a national stage application containing claims to different categories of invention will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn only to one of the following combinations of categories: (1) a product and a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product; or (2) a product and a process of use of said product; or (3) a product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and a use of the said product; or (4) a process and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process; or (5) a product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process. If multiple products, processes of manufacture or uses are claimed, the first invention of the category first mentioned in the claims of the application and the first recited invention of each of the other categories related thereto will be considered as the main invention in the claims, see PCT Article 17(3)(a) and 1.476(c).

Peptide Markush Group-Lack of Unity

The inventions are independently drawn to a markush group of distinct peptides (comprising a 13-residue open peptide sequence, with 4 various loci throughout open to various amino acid residues; the sequence equating to at least 15 or more distinct peptide sequences). For the members of a Markush group to have unity of invention, *all* members must have a common core structure or be a member of an art recognized class. Neither of the above applies to the peptides of the present invention (see e.g. SEQ ID NO: 1 versus SEQ ID NO: 15, no core structure therebetween). Thus, the Markush groups, and hence Inventions drawn thereto, lack unity of invention. (See Annex B to PCT Administrative Instructions, P. A1-59).

Requirement for a Peptide (or Nucleic Acid Encoding Same) Election as the Invention

As described above, the distinct peptides (comprising a 13-residue open peptide sequence, with 4 various loci throughout open to various amino acid residues; the sequence equating to at least 15 or more distinct peptide sequences), do not contain a substantial, distinguishable core structure/sequence that runs through them respectively. Thus an individual sequence and/or structure search is required of each compound of the invention. Therefore, irrespective of which Group of I-V is elected as the invention, Applicant must elect a single peptide sequence (or nucleic acid encoding same), as the invention, to which the elected Invention group will be searched.

This requirement is not to be taken as an election of species, but rather as an election of a single invention, since each compound is assumed to be a patentably distinct invention, in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

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Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

In re Ochiai/Brouwer Rejoinder

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier.** Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Conclusion

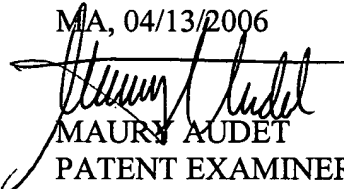
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maury Audet whose telephone number is 571-272-0960. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th. 7AM-5:30PM (10 Hrs.).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecelia Tsang can be reached on 571-272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MA, 04/13/2006


MAURY AUDET
PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1654